

The Special Committee of Inquiry met with Dean Calvin D. Linton of Columbian College of Arts and Sciences on 21 June 1965 for the purpose of obtaining his recollections of the two memoranda which were sent by the Deans and Department Chairman with regard to the Selection of a new President for the University. Mr. Wood and Mr. Davison were present. Mr. Kraus was absent. Dean Linton recounted the following:

Q. What do you think was the motivation for calling the Deans and Chairmen together for these meetings?

A. The meetings were called at the request of two of the Chairmen and the assurance of the other Chairmen that they wanted such a meeting.

Q. Some have said that the ostensible reason for the meetings was that John A. Brown had received an offer from an outside institution which required him to say he was available by Thursday or Friday. What is your opinion of that?

A. Dean Linton said there was nothing material in such a statement. The Chairmen felt that in a matter of such academic importance, it was time to take an interest in the matter. At the meeting, very few knew of any offer which had been received by Mr. Brown. The issue was quite simple. The feeling was that the Board Committee was making no progress so they wanted to talk about it for the good of the University. There was a feeling that the University was stagnant and it was felt necessary to move ahead on some track. No mention was made of Mr. Brown in the prepared statement. Just that the University was injured by no action being taken at all. They felt that the Acting President's health was deteriorating. The primary discussion at these meetings was the need to move ahead and get responsible leadership. The first mention of Mr. Brown came from a letter which Dean Burns had.

Q. The Board of Trustees was opposed to Mr. Brown and opposed to his other position as Dean of Faculties. Did Dean Burns not realize that he was creating a boomerang?

A. Dean Linton replied that he did not think so because after all, Dean Burns was presenting the letter. (the letter was approved by all present and signed and it was agreed that a copy should be hand-carried to Mr. Ellison.)

Q. What day was the meeting with Ellison?

A. Perhaps May 11 or 12. At this meeting Mr. Ellison said Mr. Brown was a very active candidate. The hostility was very clear at the meeting but he (Mr. Brown) was an active candidate. The others were then Mr. Coles and Dr. Elliott.

Q. One of the things you said was that there seemed to be a time for the academic community to take an interest in the matter. You thought the Committee of Ten should act directly? Did you intend to undercut this Committee (The Special Committee to Advise and Consult etc.)?

A. It never occurred to Dean Linton that they were undercutting the Committee.

Q. Was there any talk about the resignations (This apparently referred to the three members of the Special Committee who intended to resign) If the Committee was no longer considered objective, should the Special Committee not have been dismissed before the Deans and Faculty acted?

A. No reply recorded to this question.

Q. Professor Miller said that many people were against him (the Secretary does not know whether this referred to Mr. Brown or Mr. Elliott)

A. Dean Linton said he did not know anything about it at all.

The Deans and Chairman are ambivalent - part of the Administration and part of the Faculty. They should decide the channels through which information should go to the Trustees.

Many letters were written last summer in support of Mr. Brown to members of the Trustees but none had communicated this information to each other.

Dean Linton only thought of this as a meeting to give the Committee support with the Board of Trustees and to let them know the deans and chairmen were supporting them.

Q. The second letter had more signatures. How do you account for that?

A. Deans Mason and Hamblin voted with the letter the first time but they did not sign it. When the second letter was written, Deans Mayo and Kramer were out of town. Dean Mayo sent a separate letter later.

Q. With reference to the criteria set up by the Special Committee. Were these ever contested by the Faculty?

A. No.

(There was some discussion here of Dean Linton's attendance at the Middle States Convention which was declared "off the record")

Q. Is there any chance of asking Elliott to come down?

A. No reply recorded.

Q. Should we attempt to have Mr. Brown confirmed as Provost of the University?

A. No reply recorded.

Q. If we can get a man stronger than Mr. Brown, should we try?

A. No reply recorded.

(Dean Linton stated that he is convinced of the importance and significance of underscoring the validity of Mr. Brown's attitude toward the improvement of the University. Unless we can get the Board of Trustees to confirm our belief that Mr. John A. Brown represents a vital academic spirit for this University, we shall be in trouble. The people who resigned thought the Deans and Chairmen should instruct the Committee to support Mr. Brown. Dean Linton's own feeling is that the man should be acceptable to the Deans and Faculty whoever he might be.)

Q. Do you think that the Faculty seemed to be pushing a man down their throats just as they seemed to do to the Faculty later?

A. Dean Linton said he thought the Committee was set up to convey to the Trustees that what the Faculty wanted was the strongest President it could find. We thought that Brown was fine. If he was selected - Fine. If a better man could be found - fine. The pinpointing of Mr. Brown was due to not having another candidate with his qualifications at the time was what it boiled down to.

The Committee was not formed to pick a President but to represent the Faculty. This does not mean that the Committee should consult the Faculty at every stage, but it should have reflected the ideas of the Faculty.

Dean Linton thinks that if Elliott would come down and demonstrate his awareness of the real situation here, the University would be able to find some solution to its problems.

There was some discussion here of the Board of Trustees attitude toward Mr. Brown. Mr. Hughes thinks he came here with the idea of taking over the Presidency. A statement was made that when a search was made for someone to take over the Dean of Faculties position, Mr. Brown was very reluctant to take it.) Elliott

Dean Linton believes that if Dr. ~~Ellison~~ could demonstrate he can see both sides, could be seen walking about the campus with some of the new Trustees, and seem like a bridge between the Board and the Faculty we could have some constructive expectations. But if Dr. Elliott comes and stays upstairs in the Board room - - - .

(There was a statement here about Dean Hamblin's having written a letter to Dr. Elliott.)

Dean Linton said he was depressed to have to drag Mr. Elliott into the problems but if Dr. Elliott could do something about our basic problem of a totally uninvolved Board and a committed Faculty, he would "go along with him." If Dr. Elliott could make some clear explicit utterances on the subject, it would also be good.

The Faculty did not lack opportunities to talk to the Board Committee, but the Board does not understand what we are trying to say. They feel the Faculty does not have any feelings in these matters. Dean Linton feels there is a glimmer of hope that with the new officers in charge of the Board, they will realize now that there is a University here. Dean Linton thinks Dr. Elliott came in at a most propitious moment if he wishes to do anything with the Board.

Q. About the letter from Ellison to the Board Committee on June 3rd (or May 20th) Do you know about that?

A. They did get such a communication, but Dean Linton does not know on what date.

In summing up the problems to be handled, the following list evolved:

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| a) Get Dr. Elliott down here.                  | ) These may not     |
| Establish some sort of communication with him. | ) have been Dean    |
| b) Find out about the letter.                  | ) Linton's remarks. |
| c) Look into the T Committee idea.             | )                   |

Dean Linton stated that as members of the Academic Policy Committee, each dean wrote about each candidate. They were called in to interview Ransom, Perkins, Coles, etc.

Dean Linton wondered if Dr. Elliott knew he was in a position to do something with the Board that no one had been able to do for 30 years.

Dean Linton pointed out that the University's hope for excellence was impeded by

- 1) Faculty salaries
- 2) Lack of facilities
- 3) The level of admission standards
- 4) Retention of \_\_\_\_\_ (The secretary did not hear this)
- 5) Lack of good housing

He pointed out the need for Mr. Brown's type of spirit to really achieve academic excellence at the University. (Mr. Morris would like to create something along the lines of William's College) Dr. Elliott is a man for expansion rather than academic excellence.

The Dean referred to an evaluation and accreditation group who had surveyed the campus ten years ago and was due to do so again shortly only to find many of the things (such as the library) exactly as they had been 10 years ago, when they were disapproved.

The Dean also warned of student unrest which would probably reach a climatic stage next Fall.

There was a discussion also of a possible need for a group consisting of 2 or 3 top-flight educational consultants to survey the University prior to the visit of the regular accreditation survey people come. This would need Board approval, of course, but would not be expensive. Perhaps Dr. Elliott could make this his first order of business.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10.